

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Connecticut has been facing unprecedented budget deficits for the past two years that have contributed to record business closings, job losses and home foreclosures. Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled legislature has ignored our requests to work together to reduce spending and streamline the delivery of state services. Instead, this year, the majority-controlled Appropriations Committee passed a budget increasing spending by \$375 million and the Finance Committee passed a bill raising a number of taxes. The Finance Committee raised the estate tax to as high as 20%, imposed a Hospital Provider tax, retained a tax on electricity that was supposed to be eliminated in December of this year, and imposed a new tax on corporations. These actions show that the legislature is disconnected from the residents of Connecticut.

We believe there is a better way. Over the past two years legislative Republicans have put forth plans that will create jobs and significantly reduce state spending by streamlining government functions and eliminating waste. We are hopeful that the current crisis will finally give the majority incentive to join our efforts. Our legislative priorities include:

- Balancing the Budget
- Reducing Government Spending – Not Raising Taxes
- Performing Public Duties at a Lower Cost
- Consolidating State Agencies
- Increasing Transparency, Oversight and Accountability
- Making Connecticut a More Business Friendly State
- Lowering Property Taxes by Eliminating Unfunded Mandates
- Putting People First!



Michael A. McLachlan
Sincerely,
Michael A. McLachlan

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I thank you for this opportunity to share information about important issues affecting our state. If you have questions about this or any other issue concerning state government, please feel free to contact me directly.



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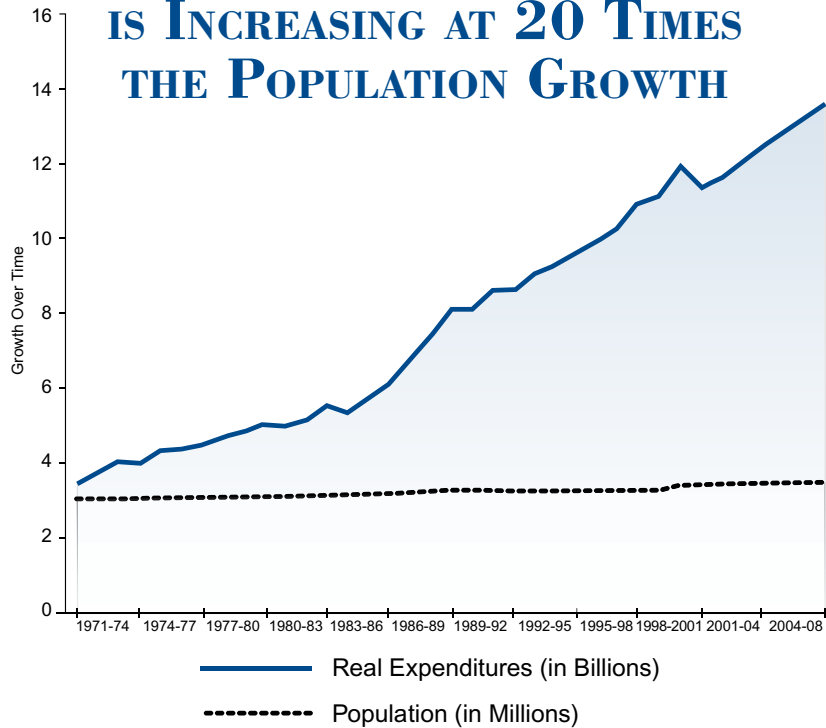


A BETTER ROAD TO RECOVERY



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GOVERNMENT SPENDING IS INCREASING AT 20 TIMES THE POPULATION GROWTH



**Connecticut's Population vs. Real State
Government Expenditures 1971 - 2008**
(Adjusted for inflation to 2008 dollars)

Source: Yankee Institute for Public Policy

**IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE WAY
STATE GOVERNMENT OPERATES.**

A BETTER ROAD:

**8 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
LEADING CONNECTICUT TO
ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

• **BALANCE THE BUDGET**

The General Assembly has no greater responsibility than balancing the state budget. I voted against the two-year budget passed in 2009 which raised taxes on families and businesses, was \$400 million in deficit upon passage, and is projected to be more than \$725 million in deficit for FY11.

• **REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING, DON'T RAISE TAXES**

The key to balancing the state budget in a responsible way is cutting government spending, not raising taxes.

• **PERFORM PUBLIC DUTIES AT A LOWER COST**

Outsource DMV services, highway maintenance, maintenance of state parks and certain social services to non profits and other private businesses that can perform the same functions more cost effectively.

• **CONSOLIDATE STATE AGENCIES**

Streamline the executive branch, cut the number of state agencies in half, and save taxpayers money while still delivering the same quality of services by eliminating redundancy.

• **INCREASE TRANSPARENCY, OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Just as every family and business in Connecticut is reexamining its spending habits to cope with the economic downturn, state government can reduce costs and combat waste, fraud and abuse through biennial auditing of all state agencies' finances, effectiveness and efficiency.

• **MAKE CONNECTICUT A MORE BUSINESS FRIENDLY STATE**

To improve the business climate in Connecticut and capitalize on our highly skilled and educated workforce, we should: expand job creation tax credits; repeal the 10% corporate tax surcharge; repeal the business entity tax; eliminate outdated, redundant and counterproductive state business regulations; and provide tax incentives to emerging and next generation industries including alternative fuel, environmental remediation and nanotechnology.

• **LOWER PROPERTY TAXES BY ELIMINATING UNFUNDED MANDATES**

One of the largest drivers of local property taxes is the General Assembly's yearly enactment of costly new mandates on cities and towns without providing the means to pay for them. Local governments are equipped to make the policy decisions that best suit their individual circumstances. State government should get off their backs and stop passing unfunded mandates.

• **PUT PEOPLE FIRST!**

We are Americans first, Republicans and Democrats second. Too often we let political ideology get in the way of the universal values that bind us together. We must work in a responsible, bipartisan way if we are to balance our budget, put people back to work and protect our quality of life.

